opportunities for products of export interest to developing countries and provision of special and differential treatment for developing countries for safeguarding their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs

while in the next stage of negotiations India will continue to hold consultations with domestic stakeholders, it will also operate through issue based coalitions of various countries at the WTO to achieve its objectives in the negotiations.

Export of Agri Products

1935. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA.
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether there has been a rise or fall in exports of the agri products to various world markets,

(b) the details thereof for the last 5 years, year-wise,

(c) whether Government plan to open new markets for exports of agri products; and

(d) the steps Government propose to ensure the growth of agri products to compete in the world markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E V.K S ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) India's Agriculture exports have been steadily increasing over the last few years. The exports have increased from Rs. 14,813 crore in the year 1999-2000 to Rs 23,839 crore during the year 2003-04. Agriculture exports (excluding tea, coffee, marine, cotton and castor oil) for the last five years are as below:

Year	Agriculture Export	
	Rs. Crore	US$ Million
1999-2000	14,813	3,419
2000-01	16,773	3,672
2001-02	18,763	3,934
2002-03	22,239	4,589
2003-04	23,839	4,747

(c) Developing new markets for exports is a continuous process for which, Government through agencies such as Commodity Boards, Authorities and Export Promotion Councils constantly endeavours

(d) In order to ensure growth of export of agri products, the Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through aforesaid agencies for infrastructure development, modern packaging units, quality control, research and development and market development.

Free movement of workers under WTO

†1936. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether in the recent meeting of the World Trade Organisation, while preparing a draft of an agreement related to expansion of future trade, the Indian delegation alongwith proposal of discussing removal of trade bans had also placed a proposal to consider removing ban on the movement of the labourers,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) In the context of the recent discussions at the World Trade Organisation, India has stressed the need for progressive liberalisation of trade in services, particularly to facilitiate free movement of natural persons (Mode 4). The Decision adopted by the General Council on 1 August, 2004 refers to the need for high quality of offers especially in sectors and modes of supply of interest to developing countries including India and recognises the interest of developing countries as well as others in liberalisation of Mode 4. Earlier, India had submitted a proposal on liberalisation of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation. India is also working together with like-minded countries with the aim of bringing about broader

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.